GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:323
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2001
SELL OF FERTILIZERS PRODUCTS
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to sell fertilizers produced in Public Sector Undertakings at lower rates to farmers where there was famine;

(b) whether the Government have announced many welfare programmes to encourage farmers like Kisan Cards, Crop Insurance etc.;

(c) if so, the factual position thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government have been asked to reduce the rate offertilizers as the farmers in several districts of Andhra Pradesh are facing severe drought conditions; and

(e) the extent to which the Government have considered the request of the State ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) :All fertiisers except Ammonium Sulphate, Ammonium Chloride, CalciumAmmonium Nitrate and Sulphate of Potash, produced and/or imported by companies, including Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), are sold atsubsidised rates to farmers including the farmers in famine affected areas. There is no separate scheme to sell fertilisers produced by PSUs at lower rates to farmers in famine affected areas.

(b) and (c): With a view to enlarge the coverage in terms of farmers, crops and risk under crop insurance, Government have introduced a new scheme titled, 'National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) − (Rashtriya Krishi BimaYojana)' from Rabi 1999-2000 season. The scheme is available to all the farmers − loanee and non-loanee both − irrespective of their size of holding. It envisages coverage of all the food crops (cereals, millets and pulses), oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops. Among the annual commercial/horticultural crops seven crops viz. Sugarcane, potato, cotton, ginger, onion, turmeric and chilies have already been covered under the scheme. All other annual commercial/horticultural crops will be placed under insurance cover in the 3rd year of operation of the scheme subject to availability of past yield data. The premium rates are 3.5% per cent (of sum insured) for bajra and oilseeds, 2.5% for other Kharif crops; 1.5 per cent for wheat, and 2 per cent for other Rabi crops. In the case of commercial/horticultural crops, actuarial rates are being charged. Small and marginal farmers are provided subsidy of 50% of the premium charged from them. The subsidy will be phased out over a period of 5 years on sunset basis. At present, the NAIS is in operation in 19 States and 2 Union Territories.

A Kisan Credit Card Scheme (KCCS) aims at providing adequate andtimely support from the banking system to the farmers for their cultivations need in a flexible and cost effective manner, had been launched in August, 1998. The scheme has made rapid progress since then with the banking system having issued 167 lakh cards approximately till 31st July, 2001. Union Budget of 2001-2002 has announced that KCCS will be provided to all the eligible farmers within the next 3 years.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): Question does not arise.